
Agenda 12.8.21 / Minutes 12.1.21

Hanover High Council [Meeting #13]

“Champions keep playing until they get it right.”

-- Billie Jean King [American Former World No. 1 Tennis Player] --

- Bring a Motion to Council - ANYONE Can! -



General Meeting Info

Every Wednesday from 11:00 am - 11:50 am in the HHS Auditorium. Please come join!

The Bitesize Agenda + Minutes

1. Agenda
 - a. Principal Search Committee Elections 
 - b. Honors Social Studies Resolution 
 - i. Make a statement showing Council's support for Honors SS classes - c. Leadership Allocation Bylaw Revision 
 - i. Intended to save time during Council sessions & make passing small allocations more efficient
2. Minutes
 - a. Honors Social Studies Resolution
 - i. Would support the addition of Honors United States History, American Government, and Geography + Geopolitics
 1. Recommendation to the Social Studies dept. to implement Honors level classes (Council can't vote on curriculum)
 2. SS is the only dept. w/o Honors level classes
 - ii. Vertically leveling classes (Honors) creates division / Horizontally dividing classes (learning styles, themes, etc.) is more beneficial
 - iii. The argument that SS should not have Honors classes because it is the last dept. with no Honors and would create added stress to "check another academic box" is inherently faulty
 - b. Email hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org with questions



Fun Fact #30: The black-capped chickadee's brain will grow in the fall to remember its seed hiding locations.



Our FunFact by Guy Kopsombut

Agenda [12.8.21]

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
3. Principal Search Committee Elections
4. Honors Social Studies Resolution
5. Leadership Allocation Bylaw Revision
6. Notes and New Business

Minutes [12.1.21]

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Reports
 - Moderator [*Pierce Seigne*]:
 - Happy December . . . hope you had a good break!
 - Assistant Moderator [*Zane Schiffman*] - No Report
 - Treasurer [*Riley McGuire*]:
 - Council Fund: \$4,516.20 + Co-Curricular Fund: \$10,300.79
 - Will change after the allocations are passed by the SAU
 - Secretary [*Saia Patel*]:
 - Recording Disclaimer / No alternates may vote / Speak up / Check out the Council website
 - Dresden School Board Representative [*Kate McCaull*] - No Report
 - Public Relations Person [*Lily Versteeg*]:
 - Council Bulletin Board will be put up tomorrow [12.2.21]
 - Committee on Programming and Procedure Representative [*Sora Shirai*]:
 - Met on 11.22.21 and 11.29.21
 - Discussed many new course for the 2022-2023 academic year
 - Course Recovery, Horror Literature, renaming of *Evolution and Genetics* to *Introduction to Biotechnology*
 - Discussed potential rotation of elective courses
 - If anyone has any opinions, please reach out to *Sora Shirai*!
 - Administrative Committee [*Vidushi Sharma*] - No Report
 - Curriculum Committee [*Alex Rockmore*] - No Report
 - Student Activities Committee [*Theo Burdick*]:
 - Full-day Winter Carnival was approved with 83% of Staff in approval
 - Organizational Engineering Committee [*Anna Healey*]:
 - Met on 11.29.21
 - Worked on a Bylaw Revision that is coming to Council soon

- Student Life Committee [*Kavi Patel*] - No Report
- Scheduling Committee [*Lynn Ceplikas*]:
 - Has asked committee members to ask Staff and students to use in a future Circle discussion (*More info is coming*)
- Historical Records Committee [*Patrick Elder*]:
 - Will be meeting with former Principal McCarthy this Friday (12.3.21) at 3:30 pm to ask him some questions about Council
 - It will be on Zoom (and will be recorded) if people want to watch
- New Mascot Selection and Implementation Committee [*Kavi Patel*]:
 - Meeting tomorrow (12.2.21) during Lunch in Room 310
 - Open to the public - please come!
- Council's 50th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee [*Pierce Seigne*]:
 - Will convene the first meeting next Thursday (12.9.21) - sign up!
- Dresden School Board Athletic Subcommittee [*Zane Schiffman*]:
 - Met on the Thursday before break (11.18.21)
 - Discussed what is on the agenda this year
 - Bond item for the HHS Track
 - Discussion for a new baseball field or replacement pieces
 - No decision if a bond for the new field would be on the agenda for this year

3. Principal Search Committee Nominations

- Summary by Josh Stearns [on the committee as a Council Rep last year]
 - ~ 12 people (including 2 students) served on the committee last year
 - More time commitment was required further along in the process
 - Conduct interviews, discuss candidates, read résumés, etc.
- To nominate yourself or someone else, [email](#) us before next Wed. (12.8.21)
- Next week, nominees will give a quick speech (<2 minutes) before paper vote
 - Why they would be a good student representative on the committee
- There will be 1 Council representative and 1 overall student representative
 - Council is only responsible for running the elections for their rep
 - Dr. Badams will decide the election procedure for the other rep

4. Honors Social Studies Resolution

- * Terminology * . . . [Link](#) to SS Dept. class descriptions
 - USH - United States History; SS - Social Studies
 - Case Studies - Read more [here](#)
- Discussion [Continued from the last Council [meeting](#)]
 - In favor of the resolution [SS Teacher]
 - Perspective has changed over the years because of students

- Not having option of Honors SS courses is detrimental + prejudicial → prevents students from studying a subject that they enjoy at an Honors (+ advanced) level
 - Students have fewer opportunities to study SS before attending college
- Faulty to say that students can just study SS on their own if they are interested in the subject
 - Everyone can read independently and follow their interests
 - Level of engagement in a class with those who share the same passion for a subject leads to a depth of understanding not easily achieved in intellectual isolation
- Faulty to say that teachers could offer an “Honors Designation” to a student for doing more work in a non-Honors class
 - Suggests that “Honors” equates with doing more work
 - Assumption is based on teachers doing a significant amount of additional work to offer more assignments to students
 - Would create unnecessary workflows
 - Potential consequence that teacher could spend a disproportionate amount of planning + work time on the “Honors” students
- Trust that teachers in other depts. are able to make informed decisions on how to structure their course offerings
 - Many students have expressed their disappointment in being unable to take Honors SS classes
 - End up taking Honors classes in other depts.
 - While they enjoy the challenge, I wonder if the SS dept. has unintentionally pushed students away from SS by not offering Honors classes
- All core depts. offer Honors classes
 - Wholly unfair to not offer Honors SS classes
- Students should be required to take entrance exams or take a test to determine which class “level” they should take
 - Should be allowed to choose the course that best reflects their interests, balanced with the rest of their course load
- Honors SS classes puts the SS dept. in line with other core depts.
 - Will provide equivalent choices for students who want to pursue their passion for SS
- Feel torn about this resolution [At-Large Rep. + Teacher]
 - Fully understand the frustration that comes with being unable to take difficult classes in the subjects you are passionate about

- Ties into the school culture
 - Students say that if a SS Honors class was available, they would not take a Science or Math Honors class
 - Do not think that this would be the case
 - Worry about the stress level of students
 - One more way for students to check another box
 - Students will feel left out and feel obligated to take the Honors class . . . lead to more workload + stress
 - Another way to divide people in school
 - You will be in the same classes with the same people
 - Won't be exposed to people who have differing opinions or learning styles
- Agree with much of what the previous speaker said [Student Rep.]
 - Hanover has a problem where kids take on too much
 - The base of that argument is that SS should not have Honors classes because it is the last dept. with no Honors
 - If SS was the first dept. to have Honors and Science did not have any Honors, we would be making the same argument
 - Not a problem specific to the SS Dept. → it is a larger problem within the school
 - This is another way to tell kids who love SS that their passion is not worth attempting to excel in
- USH classes should have designations based on how the teacher likes to teach history + Honors SS elective classes [At-Large Rep. + Teacher]
 - SS was a dept. that so many people were excited for
 - Various teaching styles
 - With the introduction of case studies as an almost exclusive vehicle through which to teach history, more students have become discouraged from taking SS classes
 - Example classes . . . USH Case Studies, USH Discussion-Based Learning, USH Project-Based Learning, etc.
 - Someone who likes to do case studies is not necessarily an Honors student . . . they simply like case studies!
 - We should mix up our teaching styles throughout the semester or give class designations based on learning styles
 - Honors SS electives should be offered along with other electives during junior and senior yr
 - English students are not in Honors until junior + senior yr
 - Had a student who used to enjoy SS because they loved stories, but said that stories died for them in high school

- Important to acknowledge that SS Dept. wants to find a way to meet students where they are and what they need [Administrator]
 - This has been a continued conversation over many years
 - Wish that there were more SS teachers present at the meeting to share their thoughts
 - Need more options available to challenge students in different ways → is an Honors designation necessary?
 - Class rigor is not about giving more work
- In support of Honors SS classes [At-Large Rep. + Student]
 - SS is the one dept. in which students view their classes based on what teacher they have instead of what they are learning
 - Students often take classes based on that criteria (to best suit their learning style)
 - Exists because there is no leveling in the dept.
 - Did not learn much in SS classes in high school / want more in-depth learning . . . this resolution supports that
- In support of horizontally leveling SS classes [At-Large Rep. + SS Teacher]
 - Dept.-wide email was sent discouraging SS teachers from speaking during the motion so that students could be encouraged to use their voices and present their case
 - SS teachers spoke earlier in the meeting, so the speaker feels justified in stating their opinion as an At-Large Rep.
 - SS is the last dept. to have non-leveled classes
 - The conversation might be very different if this was a different dept.
 - Why is the SS (about community + citizenship) to be the last dept. that endorses Honors classes?
 - What does that say about what this dept. values and how they think about their role in the school?
 - The reason for not using Honors classes is because they want students to be as engaged as possible
 - Vertically leveling classes (Honors) creates prejudice and systemic divides within the school
 - Horizontally leveling classes (based on methodology + theme) allows students to approach courses with depth + learning style that aligns with them
 - How can we empower everyone to feel a level of success by pairing them with a class that speaks to them?
- In support of Honors SS classes [Student Rep.]

- Argument that creating Honors SS classes will create more division and an “us vs them” culture is faulty
 - In SS classes (no levels), 2-3 students really stand out and wish they were in Honors SS classes
 - Dominate class discussions, are the loudest voices in the room, make references about material to each other that nobody else gets, etc.
 - The rest of the class becomes excluded
 - In Math + Science + English classes (levels), this is not the case . . . more equal passion for the subject
 - Does not correlate to good work ethic [there are still late assignments, people goofing off in class, etc.]
 - Not exclusive to people who want to go to elite universities and become President
 - Classes like Advisory, Art, Health, and Gym are meant to build community (no levels)
 - Should not exclude adding Honors SS classes for this reason . . . the same logic is consistently not applied to the Math and Science classes
 - Why do we have to sacrifice Honors SS classes?
- Students should be able to regulate their own stress levels
 - The students who would be taking Honors SS would almost be adults and can drive
 - If they are unable to, that's why we have a Guidance dept.
 - We have the resources and processes to step in
 - Should not be creating hypotheticals that there will be too much stress
- Have been able to take university-level SS classes without feeling any division → HHS has a few stand-out students in each SS class that makes it feel divisive [this resolution would prevent that]
- Consider NEASC + students should have a choice [Staff Rep.]
 - Initial reason to vote against this resolution was because of how it would affect HHS' standing with NEASC (accrediting agency)
 - In their reports, they have celebrated the SS dept. for their heterogeneous groupings (non-leveled)
 - They give a nod to the English Dept. for a phased system in which students can move up or down in phase without restriction
 - Would vote against the resolution to maintain that aspect of our Program of Studies

- Even if the Science Dept. was the last to the banquet (instead of SS), would still vote against the resolution so that NEASC could acknowledge at least one dept. with heterogeneous classes
- Appreciate the quality of comments from students
 - 9th + 10th Grades maybe should be heterogeneous
 - 11th + 12th Grades could be organized by topic area, technique, or Honors offerings
- Would only support this resolution if students have the absolute ability to self-select into the Honors classes
 - There should not be a teacher selection process or prereqs. that would preclude them from a challenge
- For the last few years, teachers have been hammered on for causing students undue stress
 - If teachers are defensive about that, don't be surprised
 - They examine their curriculum every year to look for ways to cut homework, content, stress, etc.
- Undecided on resolution [Student Rep.]
 - What is best for the students of this school?
 - Should not be to add stress . . . Will this add stress?
 - This resolution highlights how imperfect the system is
 - Adding an 'H' to a class or creating new courses will not solve this problem
 - Re-evaluation of the department is necessary
 - Junior + Senior Electives should be in phases
 - The current USH class should be designated as Honors - is a LOT of work . . . students are not being recognized for that
 - Some teachers are behind compared to other teachers who teach at a faster pace
 - What this resolution currently says will not fix those problems

Meeting Adjourns

- Past Council Agenda and Minutes -

[Agenda 12.1.21 / Minutes 11.17.21](#)
[Agenda 11.17.21 / Minutes 11.10.21](#)
[Agenda 11.10.21 / Minutes 11.3.21](#)
[Agenda 11.3.21 / Minutes 10.27.21](#)
[Agenda 10.27.21 / Minutes 10.20.21](#)
[Agenda 10.20.21 / Minutes 10.6.21](#)
[Agenda 10.6.21 / Minutes 9.29.21](#)
[Agenda 9.29.21 / Minutes 9.22.21](#)
[Agenda 9.22.21 / Minutes 9.15.21](#)
[Agenda 9.15.21 / Minutes 9.8.21](#)
[Agenda 9.8.21 / Minutes 9.1.21](#)
[Agenda 9.1.21 / Minutes 5.26.21](#)
[Agenda 5.26.21 / Minutes 5.12.21](#)

- Council Links -

[HHS Handbook](#)
[Council *Broadside* Archives](#)
[Council Bylaws \[Google Doc + Website\]](#)
[Council Website](#)
[Council Feedback Form](#)
[Council Roll Call Record](#)
[Council Meeting Attendance](#)
[List of Council Members](#)
[Bring a Motion - Anyone Can!](#)
[DM \(and follow\) us on Instagram](#)
[Email us at \[hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org\]\(mailto:hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org\)](#)

- Mascot Links -

[Linktree \(All Links\)](#)
[DM \(and follow\) us on Instagram](#)

- HHS Club + Organization Links -

<u>Clubs + Organizations</u>	<u>Links</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
<i>The Broadside</i>	Instagram / Website	Library on Thursday (Activity)
DECA	Instagram / Website	Room 118 on Thursday (Activity)
Environmental Club	Instagram	Room 226 on Tuesday (Activity)
Fashion Club	Instagram / Join / Email	
French Club	Instagram	Room 246 every other Friday
The Hot Take	Instagram	Room R11 on Thursday (Activity)
Houseplant Club	Instagram	Room 233 on Monday (Lunch)
Mokagraphia Club		Room 107 on Tuesday (Activity)
She's the First	Instagram	Room 124 on Thursday (Lunch)
Please email hhs-council@hanovernorwichschools.org to add relevant info!		

- Resources to Build Community + Well-Being -

[Crisis Hotlines](#)

[AAPI Resources](#)

[BLM Resources](#)

[Change Resources](#)

[HHS Climate Action Plan](#)

[HHS Support Services](#)

[The Broadside](#)

- School Counseling Meeting Links -

Tom Eberhardt	Laurie Harrington	Wendy Kares	Elizabeth Keene
Chris Seibel	Kyle Storey	Devon Voake	Sara Wilmot